

Day on the Hard Water!!!

The 2018 Super Bowl Ice Fishing Derby was a Rousing Success!

Many thanks to John Meyer for organizing this event. We had probably around 40 people attend!

EJ manned one grill, John was on another, and Larry Josti, who always seems to be cooking for Nimrod events was on another. Other members also contributed hauling gear, setting out tackle along with taking a turn at the grills. We had hotdogs, hot coffee and cocoa, venison, and moose. Thanks to all of them and for everyone turning out on a beautiful February Day!



Nice Pics!!!

We began this month's board meeting with Chris Craigie bringing to the board's attention a solicitation from the Sportsmen's Alliance of Maine. Since we have contributed in the past, and that many club members take advantage of the outdoor sportsmen activities that Maine has to offer, it is only natural that we would receive the solicitation to make a financial contribution. The Alliance has been and is, actively involved with a number of political issues

affecting sportsmen. The board discussed our past involvement and decided to renew our membership and make a \$100 contribution.

Maryanne arrived a little late and as soon as her laptop booted up, she regaled us with the minutes from last month's meeting. She then relayed our most recent communications. We received the 8-Point Sportsmen's Club newsletter, and a survey request from the American Tree Farm System. Chris asks members who are Princeton residents to look on the town's website for the date of a meeting that concerns the size of signs. Permanent, temporary, on buildings, and stand-alone signs will all be addressed. Chris plans on attending just to make sure we comply.

With the Secretary's report complete, we then moved on to the Treasurer's report. Cindy Smith gave us an update on all our balances and expenditures. All was in order.

We have another story this month from Jim Crystoff in Amook Bay, Alaska. He sends warm regards to all of us. It is a fishing tale that features our very own, EJ! Yes, the infamous Eric Johansen and Jim were high school buddies and this ole' story comes from that time just after high school graduation in 1980. Please enjoy the story in our Good and Welfare section.

To everyone, please send me any outdoor stories you may have. We'd love to hear about your latest exploits! I'll serve as editor and get the story into a presentable format, subject to your approval before publishing. Please email me, Chris Erali, at eralic23@gmail.com

Monthly Meetings are always the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Clubhouse – **Next Meeting: February 13, 2018**. Make it a point to attend if you can. From 6:00 – 6:45 pm for a cocktail and socializing – then we serve the best \$5 meal in town! Club business discussed with occasional guest speakers from 7:15 - 8:30 ish. It is usually an early night unless someone gets long-winded...

Speakers

Please let us know if you have a suggestion for a speaker at a future meeting.

Monthly Safety Tip and Topic for Discussion:

“Make sure ice is safe. Refer to Mass Wildlife for Guidelines.”

Here's the link:

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/ice-strength-and-safety>

New Business

Pat Orrell reminded everyone that our grill needs replacing and that we have it in the budget for this year. His research landed him on a Weber model. He will talk to Jed's for pricing which should run somewhere around \$1,500. Jed's is THE place to purchase it. They put it together, deliver it, set it up, and haul away the old one. We will bring it up at the next general meeting. Joe Afonso brought up the idea of a Turkey Clinic on a Sunday in March. Matt O'Leary would instruct, and we would provide the food for the kids.

Tina Gianos had a good idea for Good and Welfare. She suggests a planting for someone's passing. It would be a tradition rather than sending flowers. We would have a conversation with the individual family if we or they would like to memorialize their loved one in this manner. There was much discussion, and all agreed it would be nice to have the option.

Membership

As of the night of the board meeting, we had 91 unpaid dues for this year. Please get your dues paid. Not only does it get you a spot, but it makes Paul Fraser's life much easier. He'd like nothing more than to finalize this task sooner rather than later.

We have 8 new members to bring before the membership this month. They are George Kaminski and Michael Gormly from Holden, David Orciuch and Geoffrey Weaver, both from Hubbardston, a junior member, Duncan Phye of Asburnham, Mike Petruzzi of Worcester, and lastly a family membership for Chris and Kim Killam of Jefferson. To our 8 new prospective members, please join us on **our next general monthly meeting, Tuesday, February 13, 2018**, when we welcome you to our club.

Board of Trustees

All audits in order.

Trap/Skeet

Thursday nights are still a little quiet. We need a break in the weather.

Remember, Trap and Skeet is every Thursday night from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. It is open to the public, so bring a friend and join in a night of good fellowship and shooting.

Kitchen

Spring Clean-up Day: Saturday, March 31, 2018

Coffee and Doughnuts- 8 AM

Cleaning will be completed before noon. This is a good way to earn work hour credit, and for new members to meet some "old timers" and become active in our club. Volunteers should call Bruce Ebbeson [508 853 1589](tel:5088531589). Bruce is cooking at our general meeting meal in March and could use some help at 4 PM that day, March 13. No experience, nor cooking skills necessary. Call Bruce to volunteer.

Sam's Club, which had been our source for various foodstuffs, is closing. Bruce is looking into alternative vendors. Upcoming chefs for our meetings are: this month, Eric and Cindy Smith, Bruce Ebbeson in March, Dan French in April, and Pat Orrell in May.

The Worcester County League banquet is April 20, 2018. Pat and his culinary crew will be providing the gastronomic delights on that evening.

Reminder:

The FDA Food Code requires that we mark the date of all leftovers. The code requires all time and temperature sensitive food products be labeled, including leftovers.

Leftovers are only good for a week!

To protect the health and safety of our members, **please throw away expired leftovers and any undated leftovers.** Dave Oriol and Bruce Ebbeson appreciate your help and cooperation regarding this issue. Thanks!

Game Dinner

Our game dinner is scheduled for May in 2018. So far, we have moose, deer and a few pheasant. Please leave any donations for our dinner in the kitchen freezer and notify Bruce Ebbeson at 508-853-1589.

Remember to label all packages to identify type of game and date.

Rifle Range

Gil Laverne reported that the range is in good shape and Tom is feeling better as well. Please remember, "Carry in. Carry out." Pizza boxes, and fast food wrappers should be carried out by the people who brought them in. We do not have a trash service for the Range.

The gate entrance has been icy. The board noted that we used to have a sand bucket at the top of the entrance. Discussion followed, and we did get the ramp sanded. There also was a discussion about old brass from the range. Norco collects and sells their old brass for \$45 a 5-gallon bucket. We have 2 collection buckets at the range, one for brass, and one for misfires. Please use those and maintain the range condition.

House

Ralph reports the cell phone booster is up and running. We are looking for help installing our new flooring. Volunteers are welcome. No experience and no tools necessary. The electrical in our library needs to be completed along with another outlet downstairs. If anyone has electrician skills or knows someone who will donate their time, please see Ralph to get this chore finished. This has been unfinished for several years!

Special request!!! Make sure the trash goes out, including cans and bottles from the Bar.

Executive Board

This month's meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM. We aim for the newsletter to convey the highlights. E Board meetings are held at 7 PM the last Tuesday of the month. Members are welcome if you would like to come and observe our club's operation. Our membership can be very proud of the board and the time and effort that is made by everyone to keep our club running smoothly. Member concerns are always addressed. Many times, one board member will inform others that a single member voiced a certain matter that he/she found troubling. Our club can rest assured that any points brought up by a member are ALWAYS brought to the attention of the entire board.

Grounds

Neal Whitehead always needs help with snow blowing, shoveling, any other snow removal maintenance chores. There is a lot of "cleaning up" that needs to be done after a snowstorm and plowing.

PLEASE VOLUNTEER! Just show up with a shovel and pitch in. Thanks!

Land Use

Chris Craigue updated the board on the status of our legal case. Kevin Chviruk is ready for spring so he can continue working on the trails. We did not receive the state grant we had applied for clearing and planting. We will review and perhaps change the application to meet their requirements in the future.

Finance

The market fluctuates as we all know. Smart investors stay the course.

Bar

No report. All is well.

Birds

Kevin Chviruk attended a meeting last week at Norco. They discussed the numbers of birds for this past year and projected use for next season. We have a new vendor for pheasants for our Special Hunts. He is in Petersham. The vendor would like a 1/3 deposit with the order. We have used him in the past. Any money that we do put out, we get back as we do the hunts. The hunters pay for the hunts. The board wants a written contract. Farming is not a perfect science. If something goes awry, the contract will require our deposit to be returned. The board decided to move forward with the deposit and the contract.

Revenue

We are thinking of including a raffle for the summer outing. It is an opportunity to raise a little money.

Archery

Jason reports that the Boy Scouts #182 would like to shoot Tuesday, March 20 from 6 PM-9 PM. They also would like to do an overnight on April 28. We also are starting an Archery Team. This will begin as a clinic to get competition shooters at a higher level of competency. The time would be weekly on Monday nights from 6-9 PM. A fee will be charged for students and it will be open to the public. There will be no expense to the club. When spring arrives they will move outside. Jason also is working on getting a crossbow speaker for one of our general meetings. The club will host the **Trail Shoot again on June 30, 2018.**

Worcester County League of Sportsmen

Joe Afonso reports the League is actively working on increasing its land. At present, they are working with state officials on dog control in Wildlife Management Areas. The specific area is around the Rt. 495 belt near Boxboro. There have been multiple incidents of complaints. Everything from dogs being aggressive with other dogs and people. There is a concern because the dogs are allowed to run loose, and owners cannot or will not control them. Even during hunting season, people are walking dogs in the area and disruptions have occurred. The concerns and solutions are wide-ranging. State officials are studying blood tracking during deer season. The idea is that dogs may be used to track a wounded deer.

The lumber was delivered for the bat houses for our Kids' Day about 2 weeks ago, and we had plenty of volunteers to help with cutting it to size. Many clubs' members came and cut enough for 170 bat houses. The whole day's work was complete in 3 hours! Kudos go out to members from all the clubs. Many thanks to Nimrod's own: Ralph Cochran, Kevin Chviruk, Larry Josti, Dave Fallow, Maryanne Lane, and Neal Hasset. Nimrod will receive kits for 40 bat houses. Bass Pro donated 50 fishing rods! With bird houses leftover from last year, Kids' Day looks like it will be a busy day!

Mark your calendars! Kids' Day, February 18, 2018

11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.....Volunteers needed and welcome! Contact Joe Afonso.

Grant Writer

Tina Gianos is the person to see if you have a source of funding. Even if you are not sure, please contact her so that she can research the entity. If a committee wants to have a program for kids or a community, she can look for grants in those areas too. Time can be a factor. She needs at least 3 months to complete the application process. Thanks!

Good and Welfare

Nimrod member, Gary Salerno passed away. Our deepest condolences go out to his family.

Robert Chamberland underwent surgery at Dana Farber. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Here's this month's adventure.

E. J. And Jim's 1980 Albanel Fishing Trip

It all started with Paul Kukkonen's movies. Paul was a well-known character in the Worcester County fishing community back then. He had a tackle store on Green Street in Worcester, it was a great place to go for fishing tackle and knowledge. Paul was known to wash his lunch dishes by putting them in the shiner tank in his store. An expert fly tier and fisherman, he mentored many of us, as well as making and showing the best hunting and fishing movies you can find. The best part of a Paul Kukkonen movie night though was his narration, Paul was lubricated by a brown liquid from Lynchburg. E.J. and I went to one of Paul's movie nights, our senior year at Wachusett High School, 1979-80. The movies included Lac Albanel, in Mistassini Provincial Park, Quebec. We were amazed at the fishing there! It was like the glory days of Maine. E.J. and I had mastered both Comet Pond and Quabbin, and we wanted a new challenge. Albanel lay 1,000 miles North at the end of a summer road, the last 125 miles gravel. Those big fish were calling us...

We had a 1964 International Scout with 4 different retreaded tires and real floor boards. (The floor metal had rusted away and been replaced with boards). Our boat was a cobbled together "Quabbin Special", a 14-foot fiberglass job with a 9.9 Chrysler and my father's 3 horse British Seagull. Dad had a shiny new 4x4 pickup he diplomatically offered us for the trip. Not wanting to hurt Dad's feelings, we agreed to use his truck. My Dad was awesome! We set out in June, right after graduation. I don't remember much about the trip up other than it took us 24 hours and we drove straight through. When we got there, we found we had broken the Seagull propeller. Scratch one motor. The 9.9 had developed a problem too. We fished anyway and was it ever good. Trolling spoons and plugs we caught lakers, brookies, walleye, northern pike and whitefish. We hooked fish too big to land and landed some big enough to break our chain stringer. Albanel is a big, cold, wind-swept lake that will kill you if you are not careful. One fellow did meet his maker, rod in hand, while we were there. We saw big boats smashed by the weather. It was sobering even to a couple immortal teenagers! We did meet some interesting people. "Captain Nemo" had driven his Olds 442 station wagon up from New England some place, I wonder what ever happened to that car? "Tony" from Connecticut was called "Al". We found out that this was short for Al Banel... He had been coming there so long

he thought the lake should be named after him. Cree food was an experience; loon, boiled feathers and all (It does not taste like chicken), was served with “ice cream”- equal parts lard, powdered sugar and blueberries mixed and eaten with fingers. There was an ice house there for fish, the house was so cold it would freeze fish overnight, and it was pretty warm there, though it did snow once. My air mattress failed and I slept for a week in the pickup’s cab, which smelled like an unwashed teenager for a long time after.

The broken motors finally got the best of us and we decided to head home early. Disaster struck at 3 A.M., 10 miles North of Notre Dame de la Dore, Quebec. As we motored along there was a clunk, followed by a crash and a lot of sparks behind the truck. The axle had fallen off the boat trailer! As we surveyed the wreckage (total) and weighed our options (none) a pickup with three local guys arrived. They spoke no English, we spoke no French. They turned out to be good Samaritans though and got right to work. Before you could say “tabernac” they had the axle chained to the trailer and we all headed to town at 5 mph. We got there about 4:30 am. Our new friends produced a big bag of poached brook trout from the heater air intake of their truck, we all had a good laugh, the universal language. They woke the local truck repair mechanic, as well as the diner/hotel owner. The mechanic put our rig in his shop. I think I saw his nose wrinkle at the smell. The diner fed us, and we were ushered to a hotel room. By that afternoon the trailer was fixed better than new, we paid our bill and were on our way. I have never forgotten the kindness of those folks and try to pay it forward every chance I get. The rest of the trip home was uneventful, other than not telling about the cat we ran over.

Within a day E.J. and I were back in Holden with soggy fish, empty wallets and a big education. I’d wager E.J. and I learned more on that trip than we did our entire senior year in High School, I think that’s what it’s all about. I just hope the statute of limitations has expired. Thanks to E.J. for the pictures and memories for this story.

Please if you have any news that you would like to have included in this section, good or bad, contact any member of the Executive Board, and we’ll see that it is included.